



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., says Nation grieves the loss of 12th Navajo serviceman in the War on Terror in Afghanistan

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said Friday that the Navajo Nation deeply grieves the loss of another soldier in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Spc. Christopher Moon of Tucson died July 13 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany after sustaining wounds on July 6 in Afghanistan.

“All of the Navajo Nation is saddened and deeply grieved to learn of the death of another of our young soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom,” President Shirley said. “Christopher gave his life protecting us all and defending freedom, doing what he strongly believed in, and living a life of honor. Our hearts and our deepest condolences go out to his family and the communities of Tucson where called home and he was loved and of Gray Mountain where his grandparents live.”

Spc. Moon, an infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, was wounded by an improvised explosive device July 6 while conducting a combat patrol in the Arghandab River Valley.

“Spc. Moon was the type of person we have all heard of but have very seldom ever met,” said 1st Sgt. Derek Gondek, Spc. Moon’s company first sergeant. “He was one of those men who no matter what he put his mind to he became a star at it, whether it was on the baseball field or on the battlefield. He will truly be missed by his fellow warfighters.”

Spc. Moon joined the Army on Feb. 5, 2008, and attended One Station Unit Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga. After completing training, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., where he arrived Aug. 12, 2008, and joined 2nd Battalion, 508th PIR. He deployed with the unit to Afghanistan in September 2009, according to a 82nd Airborne Division statement.



The late Spc. Christopher Moon

Spc. Moon’s many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Basic Parachutist Badge.

Spc. Moon was a star Tucson High School Badgers baseball player with major league

potential who gave up a University of Arizona scholarship to join the Army. He was named

the 2006 Southern Arizona baseball player of the year, an award which made him a guaranteed starter his freshmen year at the University of Arizona. He was also drafted by the Atlanta Braves.

He is survived by his parents Brian and Marsha Moon of Tucson, his grandparents Loretta and Harry Begay of Gray Mountain, his aunts Charlene “Chucki” Begay of Aztec, N.M., and Alberta Begay of Tucson, his uncles Wesley Begay and Harrison Begay of Phoenix, Kenneth Begay of Cameron, and many nephews and nieces.

Funeral arrangements are pending.